

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-10

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FM AMEMBASSY RABAT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 3616

AMEMBASSY NEW DELHI IMMEDIATE

INFO ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE 16

AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA

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NEW DELHI FOR SECRETARYS PARTY

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR XF MO

SUBJ: ARAB SUMMIT: OPENING SESSION

REF: FBIS LONDON 262330 OCT 74 (NOTAL)

FBIS LONDON 262350 OCT 74 (NOTAL)

FBIS LONDON 262357 OCT 74 (NOTAL)

1. SUMMARY: ARAB CHIEFS OF STATE MET BRIEFLY OCTOBER 26. SESSION HIGHLIGHTED BY ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN'S TOUGH SPEECH WHICH CONTAINED SHARPEST ATTACKS ON U.S. THUS FAR HEARD AT CONFERENCE. KING HASSAN CALLED FOR HUSSEIN-ARAFAT RECONCILIATION. LEADERS WILL REPORTEDLY MET WITH NO AIDES PRESENT OCTOBER 27. END SUMMARY

2. ARAB SUMMIT CONFERENCE OPENED 1745 HOURS LOCAL OCTOBER 26. IN TELEVISED PUBLIC SESSION ATTENDED BY DIPLOMATIC CORPS, BUT FROM WHICH PRESS EXCLUDED, KING HASSAN, AS CHAIRMAN OF CONFERENCE, INTRODUCED ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN RIAD. IN TOUGH, ONE-HALF HOUR SPEECH RIAD CITED ARAB ACHIEVEMENTS SINCE RAMADAN WAR AND THEN DELIVERED HEAVY ATTACK ON ISRAEL WHICH, HE SAID, IS LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PREPARING ITSELF TO STRIKE ARABS MILITARILY. ONLY AGREEMENT

ISRAELIS WILL ACCEPT IS ONE INVOLVING ARAB SURRENDER TO THEIR AIMS. ISRAEL MAKES OTHER AGREEMENTS ONLY TO VIOLATE THEM WHEN IT SUITS ITS PURPOSES TO DO SO.

3. TURNING TO U.S. RIAD SAID "U.S. POLICY IN MID-EAST BASED ON SUPPORTING AND BACKING ISRAEL MILITARILY, ECONOMICALLY AND POLITICALLY." U.S., HE MAINTAINED, INTERVENED ON ISRAELI SIDE IN 1973 AND U.S. ASSISTANCE TO ISRAEL NOW EXCEEDS BY MANY TIMES WHAT IT WAS PRIOR TO WAR. BY GIVING ARMS AND DECLARING ITSELF COMMITTED TO PROTECT ISRAEL, U.S. IN FACT SUPPORTS CONTINUING ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF ARAB TERRITORIES. IT THEREFORE NATURAL THAT ISRAELIS HAVE NOT LEARNED LESSONS OF RAMADAN WAR AND THAT ISRAELI OFFICIALS AFFIRM THEIR INTENTION RETAIN WHATEVER ARAB TERRITORY THEY WISH.

4. RIAD ALSO CALLED "ATTACK LAUNCHED BY U.S. AGAINST ARABS, ON PRETEXT THAT OIL PRICES HIGH, AN EXCUSE TO USE FORCE TO OCCUPY SOURCES OF OIL. ROLE OF U.S. ZIONISM IN THIS ATTACK CANNOT BE IGNORED." HE SAID CURRENT WORLD ECONOMIC DIFFICULTIES COULD NOT BE BLAMED ON HIGH OIL PRICES. "INFLATION AND INTERNATIONAL MONETARY CRISES PRECEDED OIL PRICE RISE BY YEARS."

5. RIAD ALSO DEVOTED CONSIDERABLE TIME TO COOPERATION, BOTH INTRA ARAB AND WITH REST OF WORLD AS MEANS OF RECOVERING LOST TERRITORY. HE DENOUNCED ATTEMPTS TO DEPICT ARABS AS HAVING CAUSED WORLD'S ECONOMIC ILLS AND CITED ARAB LOANS TO INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS AND ASSISTANCE TO INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS. HE CALLED FOR MAKING ARAB ECONOMIC COUNCIL AND ARAB DEVELOPMENT FUND MORE EFFECTIVE, AND FOR MORE BI-LATERAL AND MULTI-LATERAL PROJECTS AMONG ARAB STATES. HE ALSO PLEDGED MORE ATTENTION TO AFRO-ARAB COOPERATION AND NOTED THAT EUROPEAN WILLINGNESS TO EXTEND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO ARABS REQUIRED INTRA ARAB COORDINATION.

6. AFTER RIAD'S SPEECH DEPUTY ARAB LEAGUE SECY GEN NOWFAL CITED CABLES OF SUPPORT RECEIVED BY CONFERENCE. THOSE FROM PODGORNY AND KOSYGIN HEADED LIST AND WERE ONLY NON-ARAB MESSAGES CITED.

7. KING HASSAN THEN MADE UNEXCEPTIONAL 20-MINUTE ADDRESS. LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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MAIN POINT OF INTEREST WAS OPEN REFERENCE TO DISPUTE BETWEEN JORDAN AND PLO. HE TERMED SUCH A DISPUTE NATURAL BUT ALSO APPEALED TO HUSSEIN AND ARAFAT TO MEND THEIR DIFFERENCES IN INTEREST ARAB SOLIDARITY. AT CONCLUSION OF HASSAN'S SPEECH, ARAFAT ATTEMPTED TO MAKE PUBLIC STATEMENT BUT, AFTER BRIEF DISCUSSION BETWEEN TWO MEN, CONFERENCE CLOSED TO PUBLIC. ONLY HALF-HOUR LATER OPENING SESSION ADJOURNED, AND SPECULATION IS THAT LEADERS DISCUSSED PROCEDURAL MATTERS ONLY.

8. FOLLOWING OPENING SESSION, IT WAS ANNOUNCED THAT LEADERS WOULD MEET TWICE DAILY AT 1030 AND 1700 HOURS LOCAL. FIRST SESSION OCTOBER 27 WILL BE DEVOTED TO CONSIDERATION OF ARAB AND INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. OCTOBER 27 MEETING WILL BE HELD AT ROYAL GUEST PALACE AND WE UNDERSTAND THAT NO AIDES WILL BE PRESENT. GENERAL EXPECTATION IS THAT CONFERENCE WILL RUN AT LEAST UNTIL EVENING OCTOBER 28.

9. DESPITE PRESS REPORTS OF HIS ARRIVAL, WE UNDERSTAND SOMALI PRESIDENT SIAD BARRE NOT PRESENT. SOMALIA REPRESENTED BY FON MIN OMAR ARTEH.

10. PRESS SOURCES WITH WHOM WE HAVE SPOKEN CONTINUE EXPRESS CONSTERNATION AT WHAT THEY CONSIDER EXCESSIVELY TOUGH SECURITY AT CONFERENCE SITE. MOST JOURNALISTS HAVE BEEN REFUSED PERMISSION ENTER ANY PORTION OF HILTON HOTEL BUILDING EXCEPTING ONE CAFETERIA, EVEN WHEN HEADS OF STATE AND FOREIGN MINISTERS NOT PRESENT. THUS, CONTACTS WITH WORKING LEVEL DELEGATION MEMBERS, WHICH HAVE BEEN STANDARD AT PREVIOUS MEETINGS, NOT POSSIBLE.

11. COMMENT: WE CONTINUE TO RECEIVE ADVICE FROM MOROCCAN CONTACTS THAT RESULTS, RATHER THAN RHETORIC, ARE WHAT COUNT. NEVERTHELESS, RIAD'S LATEST SPEECH IS TOUGHER THAN HIS OPENING REMARKS AT BEGINNING FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETINGS AND LINKAGE OF U.S. WITH ISRAEL IS CLOSER THAN BEFORE.
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